



The YRBS is a nationwide survey produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) to monitor the six critical health behaviors of adolescents: alcohol and drug use, injury and violence (including suicide), tobacco use, nutrition, physical activity, and sexual risk behaviors. The data is collected from students in 9th through 12th grades every two years. In 2007, Kentucky was able to obtain weighted high school data.

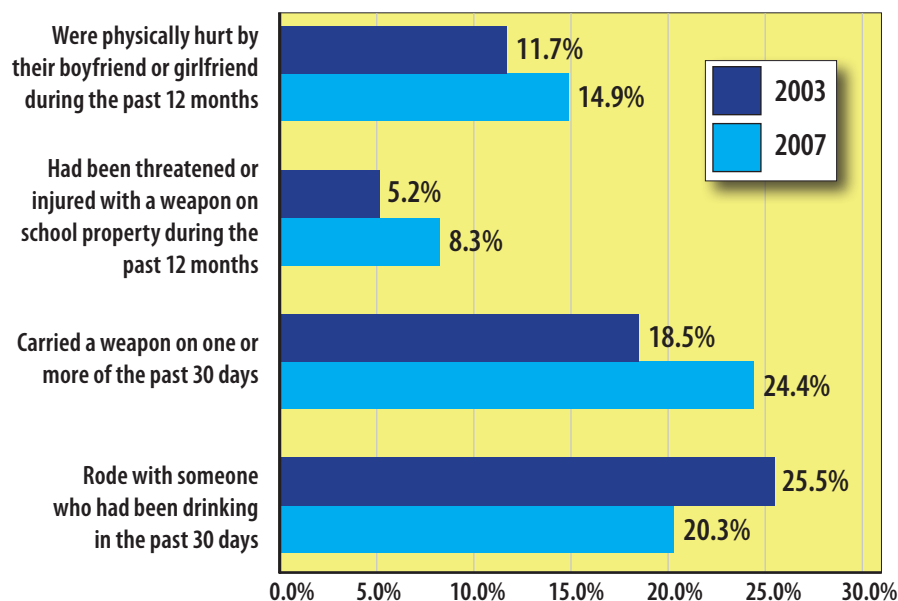
Injury & Violence

In the United States, injuries are the leading cause of death and disability for people aged 1 to 44 years. Approximately 84% of all deaths among adolescents aged 10-24 years are attributed to injuries from only four causes: motor vehicle crashes (37%), all other unintentional injuries (16%), homicide (18%), and suicide (13%). Highly associated with these injuries are adolescent behaviors such as physical fights, carrying weapons, making a suicide plan, and not using seatbelts.¹ The rates of some of these risk behaviors among Kentucky students are fairly high or have even been steadily increasing. Many students rarely or never wear a seatbelt (17.6%), and many students were in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months (27.0%). Also, the risk of suicide could become more common with 29.4% of students feeling so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row during the past 12 months, that they stopped doing some usual activities.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/injury/index.htm>. Retrieved 7/28/08.

Statistically Significant Changes in Injuries & Violence in Kentucky

This graph represents behaviors in adolescent injuries and violence that have had statistically significant changes from 2003 to 2007.



Youth Disproportionately at Risk

- Males (21.8%) are more likely than females (13.2%) to never or rarely wear a seatbelt when riding in a car driven by someone else
- Whites (25.4%) are more likely than blacks (13.5%) to have carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on one or more of the past 30 days
- Hispanic/Latinos (13.2%) are more likely than whites (4.5%) to have not gone to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school
- Hispanic/Latinos (21.6%) are more likely than whites (7.4%) to have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more time during the past 12 months
- Hispanic/Latinos (25.7%) are more likely than whites (14.7%) to have seriously considered suicide during the past 12 months

For More Information

For additional KY YRBS data and other YRBS fact sheets, visit the KDE website at: <http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/School+Health/Youth+Risk+Behavior+Survey.htm>

For national data or more information on the YRBS, visit the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/index.htm>